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Temperance of
Wine Countries

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TEMPERANCE OF WINE COUNTRIES.

TO THE

Rev. Dr. E. NOTT, LL.D.,

PRESIDENT UNION COLLEGE, SCHENECTADY, U.S.A.

Edward C. Delavan.

PARIS, MAY 1ST, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,

Since I last wrote you, I have had an interesting interview with Cardinal Wiseman, in Rome. I found him entirely posted up with regard to the adulterations of liquors, and the *baneful* influences they were exerting on the world, especially the laboring classes, and he approved a plan, which, if sanctioned by the Roman Catholic bishops in America, he said he would second at the Vatican. Other ecclesiastics in Rome, of high station, have promised to aid the measure also.

You will perceive by the English press, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is making an effort to introduce weak, cheap wine into England, at a low duty, and then fill the land with additional licensed places to sell it, and this *as a temperance measure*. The total abstainers, as well as many others, are up in arms to prevent this, and they are bringing up their arguments and statistics to prove that, in their opinion, in place of being a "temperance measure," it will increase intemperance to a frightful extent.

The same idea prevails in England, as in many minds in the United States, that by the introduction of cheap and weak wines, intemperance would by degrees die out. Nothing, in my opinion, can be more delusive; let the love of weak wine be established, then it will not satisfy, stronger will soon take the place of the weak, and then ardent spirits will follow, as a matter of course.

On thorough examination, facts and arguments have established the truth, that all use of alcohol as a beverage, whether in large

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or small quantities, is opposed to health and life: the question is only one of degree.

Cardinal Wiseman, in writing on the subject, remarks:—

"Though compared with other nations, the Italians cannot be considered as unsober, and the lightness of their ordinary wines does not so easily produce lightness of head as heavier potations; they are fond of the *osteria* and the *bettola*, in which they sit and sip for hours, encouraged by the very sobriety of their drinks. There, time is lost, and evil conversation exchanged; there, stupid discussions are raised, whence spring noisy brawls, the jar of which kindles fierce passions, and sometimes deadly hate. Occasionally even worse ensues. From the tongue sharpened as a sword, the inward fury flies to the sharper steel lurking in the vest or the legging; and the body pierced by a fatal wound, stretched on the threshold of the hostelry, proves the deadly violence to which a quarrel over cups may lead."

This statement of the Cardinal coincides with my examinations, and the experience of thirty years. Science and the Bible fully sustain the same great doctrine. Science and the Bible, when rightly understood (the Author of both being the same), are always in harmony. If the Bible sanctions the use of alcohol, or intoxicating drinks, as a beverage in health, then there should be an end of the movement in favor of total abstinence as a duty; but I believe, and think you are of the same opinion, that the Bible *throughout*, is a total abstinence book, as far as intoxicating drinks are concerned as a beverage in health. If this view of the scriptural doctrine of temperance is true, is it not time that the Church of Christ should be governed by it? If not true, let the error be exposed, and the moderate use of alcohol, as a common beverage, be henceforth considered true temperance by true temperance men.

Rev. Sydney Smith declared:—"If you wish to keep your mind or body healthy, abstain from all fermented liquors."

Sir Henry Holland (his son-in-law) says:—"All men should, for health's sake, make at least one fair trial of abandoning the use of wine and all intoxicating drinks."

Lord Acton, while Supreme Judge of Rome (afterwards Cardinal), stated in a letter addressed to me on the subject:—"I beg leave to state my opinion upon the proportion of crimes which in this country may be traced, for their origin, either to the immoderate use of wine, or to the too great frequenting of public-houses. I think I may fairly record one-third under this head."

Lord Bacon wrote:—"Of all things known to mortals, wine is the most powerful and effectual for exciting and inflaming the passions of mankind, being common fuel to them all." Of course Lord Bacon alluded doubtless to bad wine—wine "the mocker"—not the wine of the cluster, the press, and the vat; and before "the mocker" had been formed by fermentation.

Milton asks—"What more foul and common sin among us than drunkenness? and who can be ignorant that, if the importation of

wine, and the use of all strong drink, were *forbidden*, it would rid the possibility of committing that odious vice, and men might afterwards live happily and healthfully, without the use of these intoxicating drinks."

I find the following in a letter addressed by the Rev. D. Burns, of London, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer :—"The Archbishop of Cambray in his 'Telemachus,' composed for the instruction of that young Prince, whose early death was considered a providential judgment on France, sought to convey those principles of government and moral conduct which should bless the French nation with a wiser sovereign than Louis XIV."

International peace and free trade, are doctrines of which Fenelon was an early apostle ; and as to wine, what was his sentiment, founded on all he saw around him ? There are two passages which answer to this inquiry. Adoam had described the happy state of the people of Bœatica; and in answer to the question of Telemachus, whether they drank wine, Adoam answered: "They care so little for drinking it, that they never wish to make it. Not because they are without grapes, for no soil produces more delicious ones, but they are satisfied with eating the grape, as they do other fruits, and they dread wine as the corrupter of mankind. It is a species of poison, they say, which causes madness. It does not make man die, but it degrades him into a brute. Men may preserve their health and vigour without wine; with wine they run the risk of ruining their health and losing their morals."

Quite as remarkable is the advice given by Mentor to Idomeneus: "I believe, too, that you ought to take care never to allow wine to become too common in your kingdom; if too many vines are planted, they must be rooted up. Wine is the source of the greatest evils among communities. It causes diseases, quarrels, seditions, idleness, aversion to labour, and family disorder. Let wine, then, be preserved as a kind of restorative, or as a very rare liquor, not to be used except for sacrifices, or for extraordinary festivities; but do not hope to cause the observance of so important a rule, if you do not yourself set the example."

How surprisingly the evidence here recorded of the teachings of Fenelon coincides with the opinions of Louis Philippe, and his son, the Duke of Orleans, as expressed to me in the presence of General Cass, our most worthy minister here in 1838.

I see that the Rev. D. Burns has recorded the conversation, in part, that took place at this interview. This important testimony has often been published, but in this communication it may not be out of place to give it again. I take it in the main from his letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

"How matters stand in France more facts will show; and the authorities cited shall be the late King of the French, Louis Pilliippe and his much-loved son, the Duke of Orleans. I was anxious, on the 19th instant, to place before you the printed statement relating to this circumstance, but it will be enough now to explain that, in the November of 1838, Mr. E. C. Delavan, a gentleman of New York

State, visited France, and obtained an interview with the King, who, says Mr. Delavan, "stated expressly that the drunkenness of France was occasioned by wine; that in one district of his empire, there was much intemperance on gin, but he considered wine the great evil. I took the liberty of asking him if I understood him to say that his opinion was that wine occasioned most of the evils of intoxication in France, and was answered in the same words:—'The drunkenness of France is on wine.'

"I stated to the King that I had been outside the barriers, where the common people resort to drink wine, because there it is free of duty. 'Oh,' said he, 'there you will see drunkenness,' and truly I had seen it there, in all it horrors and debasing effects, and chiefly on wine. I told him my guide said that he thought one-eighth of the adult male population of Paris were drunkards; His Majesty thought this too great a proportion." The Duke of Orleans, in a conversation with the same gentleman, remarked, as the King had done, that he had no doubt that all intoxicating drinks are injurious as a beverage to men in health, and that the intemperance of France was on wine.

"He also stated that in those districts where most wine was made, there also was the greatest wretchedness, and the most frequent appeals to Government for aid; and also that so large a proportion of the soil was now cultivated for wine, that the raising of stock and grain was diminished to an alarming extent, and *that he looked to the diminution in the use of wine in other countries as a source of hope to France*, that failing of a market for her wines, the fields of France might be cultivated to greater advantage, to produce more abundant food and clothing for the people." I will add to the above statement that the Duke of Orleans told me that the drinking of a single bottle of wine a day, by the soldier, it being weak, would do but little injury; but the use of this bottle stimulated the appetite, and the pay went to purchase more, the use of which caused the breach of rules—and disorders of all kinds—then followed court-martials and punishments.

Louis Philippe, or his son, told me that raw silk, to the value of 100,000,000 of francs, was yearly imported into France, which might be produced in the country, were not the soil monopolised to so great a degree by the vine.

How wise it would be in the Emperor of the French to discourage the replacing of the diseased grape vines with new ones; indeed, to discourage the cultivation of the grape vine altogether, except for food and other allowable purposes.

Such a course would, in my opinion, add greatly to the wealth, health, morals, and general prosperity of the nation.

Some articles in "Household Words," in 1854, on the workmen of France, described the lamentable influence of the wine shops; and in 1855, the Times' Paris correspondent, stated that on the 30th of October, the Prefect of the Department of the Sarthe had issued a circular to all the mayors of his department, in which he declared "the resorting to wine houses is deplorable in every respect,

for there the Government is vilified, the health impaired, and the resources of the family foolishly squandered, to the detriment of morality and religion."

In the words of De Quincey, "Preparations of intoxicating liquor, even when harmless in their earlier stages, are fitted to be stepping-stones for making the transition to higher stages that are not harmless."

Smollett, the historian and novelist, found about a hundred years since, in the course of his travels, "that all wine districts are poor, and the French peasantry were always more healthy when there was a scarcity of wine."

The Count de Montalembert (and he a Frenchman, *ought* to know,) said in his place in the French National Assembly, 1850, "Where there is a wine shop there are the elements of *disease*, and the frghtful source of *all* that is at enmity with the interests of the workmen."

In an article in the Magazine, called "The Work-a-day World of France," the following alarming picture is drawn of the condition of the French industrial centres:—

"Drunkenness is the beginning and end of life in the great French industrial centres. Against this vice what can the salaries of women and children do? The woman's labours help the drunken husband on his road to ruin. The child is born with disease in his bones, and with evil example before him."

"There are manufacturing towns, (Lille for instance,) where the women have followed the example of the men, and have added drunkenness to their other vices. It is estimated that at Lille, 25 out of every 100 men, and 12 out of every 100 women, are confirmed drunkards. Here there are even women's wine-shops, where the unfortunate frequenters drink coffee and spirits, while their babes lie drugged at home with a "*dormant*," as the popular infant's narcotic is called."

Well may the talented editor "Alliance Weekly News" say "this is a terrible picture; and of France, too, the land of light wines, where Mr. Gladstone's Temperance drink is the cheap and abundant popular beverage. It is no surprise to us to learn that the mayors of manufacturing towns in France have begun to turn their eyes towards prohibition, as the only available remedy."

In 1833, Judge Platt, one of the Supreme Judges of the State of New York, stated in a public address, "*that when the public mind was properly enlightened, grog shops would be indictable at common law as public nuisances.*"

Chancellor Walworth, about the same time, in his annual address before the New York State Temperance Society, (of which he was their first President,) stated that "it was his opinion that the time would come, when men would as soon be engaged in poisoning their neighbor's wells, as dealing out to them intoxicating drinks to be used as a beverage."

Horatio Greenough, the eminent American sculptor, in a letter to me from Florence, in 1838, said:—"Many of the more thinking and

prudent Italians abstain from the use of wine; several of the most eminent of the medical men are notoriously opposed to its use, and declare it a poison. When I assure you that one-fifth, and sometimes one-fourth of the earnings of the labourers are expended in wine, you may form some idea as to its probable influence on their health and thrift."

He also said that the dealers in the weak wines, did not hesitate to adulterate them in order to add a trifle to their gains.

J. Fenimore Cooper, the American novelist, said:—"I came to Europe under the impression that there was more drunkenness among us than in any other country, England, perhaps excepted. *A residence of six months in Paris changed my views entirely.*"

"Light wines," says Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, "nothing so treacherous! They inflame the brain like fire, while melting on the palate like ice. All inhabitants of light wine countries are quarrelsome."

"Oh thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee DEVIL."—[*Shakespeare.*

In a former communication I described Piquette, or the ordinary wine (so called) of the country, as being a mere "decoction" leeched from grape stalks, skins, &c., after being drenched with water, and after all the wine had been trodden out by the feet.

In answer to an inquiry with regard to the *average* value of Piquette, &c., Messrs. Barton, Guertier & Co., wrote me from Bordeaux, 27th of April, 1860:—

"The wine vats of Medoc produce, on an average, 40 hhds. of wine; each 63 American gallons, or 48 English Imperial gallons.

"The average value of Piquette in Medoc, and about Bordeaux, has varied, like the wine, 150 per cent. within the last five or six years.

"The Imperial gallon, without the cask, in 1853, was 31 centimes (about 6 sous), in 1860, 38 centimes (about 8 sous). Piquette pure, however, is hardly to be met with, and is replaced by mixtures of cider, rum and water, and all sorts of artificial beverages."

It appears from this that even the mild wines are used up by fabrications, and mixed with all sorts of artificial substances, and then palmed off upon the public and the nations of the world as pure healthful wines. This statement agrees with that of the sculptor Greenough.

The French drink wine as we in America drink tea and coffee. No wonder that the great physician, Broussais, found the stomachs of most of the adults he dissected, in a state of disease, and that he came to the conclusion at last, that *that* disease was occasioned by the use of heating liquors. No wonder, too, that Dr. Sewall, of Washington, in his dissections found the stomachs of even regular moderate drinkers of intoxicating liquor in a state of inflammation, and so recorded them in his admirable drawings of their stomachs. How could it be otherwise? Alcohol is as sure to make an impression on the stomach as on the face.

In walking the streets of Paris for weeks past, I have been

much struck with the difference in appearance of the middle-aged and more advanced among the higher classes here and in Italy. There the use of strong drink of any kind is limited, and it is rare to meet a face, among the class specified, indicating intemperance; here such faces meet you at every turn, faces not bearing the hue of health, but that hue which indicates the ravages of the poison alcohol.

"Alcohol," says Liebig, "is a bill drawn on the laborer's health," (every man should be a laborer of some sort) which he is incessantly compelled to renew, as he has not funds to meet it; the bankruptcy of the body is the inevitable result."

Dr. Romeyn Beck, in his Medical Jurisprudence, says:

"That alcohol, whether found in rum, brandy or wine, *is* 'poison,' is conceded on all hands. It is classed among poisons, because, says a learned writer, it is one of 'those substances which are known by physicians as capable of altering or destroying, in a majority of cases, some of the functions necessary to life.'"

I have no doubt the surface of the stomach of the regular moderate drinker of alcohol is always in a state of disease, and diseased in proportion to the alcohol used. It must be so, or Liebig and Dr. Beck are in error as respects the qualities of alcohol.

The diminished production of pure wine on the continent, and consequent increase of price, and the fear of being poisoned by fabrications, may have had some influence, not only in checking consumption, but in lessening crime and poverty to the like extent.

Then again the recent great extension of the barriers here has brought all the drinking of the inhabitants within them; before this extension the labouring classes of Paris were in the habit of resorting to wine shops outside the barriers, where they could drink free of duty. Now these same drinking places are brought within, and when resorted to for intemperance the city tax on the liquor is added to the price.

Having a letter of introduction to one of the most extensive vendors of pure wine here, he stated very frankly that wine was not a necessary article, but that, like Adam and Eve, we were all prone to do that which was *forbidden*. He told me that the wine introduced into Paris was not Piquette, but heady wine; that the fabrications took place in the city, and that he believed that full one-half the liquor drank as wine in Paris was fabricated.

I have learned from another source that pretty much all the common wine sold in the shops is manufactured in the city, and is of the most injurious quality, from the materials used in the manufacture, aside from its contained alcohol.

Families purchasing directly from makers of known integrity are alone partially safe from drugged wine; and even *they* should be watchful as to the channel through which they receive it. The honest dealers find it difficult to carry on their trade in competition with the fabricators.

The wine merchant above referred to stated that, being ill, his physician recommended him to take his own Burgundy as a medicine. In place of taking his advice, he drank nothing but water

for six weeks, and recovered. The physician was well pleased with the recovery of his patient, and that his remedy had been so effectual; but when told that water had been substituted for wine, he looked blank enough. Still, no temperance movement opposes the cautious use of pure intoxicating drink as a medicine; but, when used as a medicine, it should be abandoned like other medicines the moment it has effected the object for which it was used.

A gentleman told me that he drank strong beer at dinner by advice of his physician. I asked him, "How long have you been taking this medicine at dinner?" "Two years," was his reply. I remarked that I thought it rather a singular habit to take medicine for so long a time at the dinner table. After a moment's reflection he laughed outright, and said "I will own up, I love it." Another gentleman of the same city called on me while here in 1838, and remarked, "I am 74 years old; I was in the habit of taking two glasses of wine a day as medicine; I gave it up because I wished to give my entire example to the cause of temperance, and much to my surprise I found the disease left me I had been taking wine to cure." While in Rome I saw it announced that he had died at the age of 94. I know men sometimes live to a great age using alcohol, but they live on in spite of alcohol, and probably would have lived much longer without it. Let one case in a thousand exist like this, and it is constantly quoted in opposition to the only safe principle—total abstinence from all that can intoxicate as a beverage in health.

"Out of a caravan of eighty-two persons, who crossed the great desert from Algiers to Timbuctoo, the present summer, all but fifteen used wine and other liquors, as a preventative against African diseases. Soon after reaching Timbuctoo, these all died, save one; while of the fifteen who abstained all survived."

This wine merchant directed me to where I could see the results of wine drinking in all its debasement. I visited one wine shop with my guide last evening (Monday); I saw the proprietor, and told him that I was curious to see his establishment; he was very polite, and sent a person round with us.

At the lowest, five hundred persons were already assembled, and the people were flocking there in droves; men, women, and children, whole families, young girls alone, boys alone, taking their seats at tables; a mother with an infant on her arm came reeling up one of the passages.

It was an immense establishment, occupying three sides of a square, three or four stories high, and filling rapidly with wine votaries. I saw hundreds in a state of intoxication, to a greater or less degree. All, or nearly all, had wine before them.

The attendant stated to me, that the day before (Sunday) at least 2,000 visited the establishment, and that the average consumption of wine was 2,000 bottles per day.

This place was considered a rather respectable wine shop. My guide then took me to another establishment, not ten minutes' ride from the Emperor's Palace.

The scene here beggars description. I found myself in a narrow

lane, filled with men and women of the lowest grade. The first object which met my sight was a man dragging another out of the den by the hair into the lane. Then commenced a most inhuman fight; at least fifty people were at hand, but not a soul attempted to part the combatants; at last one fell against the curb-stone, I thought him dead, but he soon got up again, and at it they went.

I then entered into the outer room of the establishment, which was packed full of the most degraded human beings I ever beheld, drinking wine, and talking in loud voices. I did not dare to proceed further. It was much worse than the wine shops I visited in Rome, in 1839, when I was sent by Cardinal Acton, to see the result of wine drinking there. It is rather a remarkable fact, that in starting on my expedition last night, as I was entering my cab for the purpose, the very man who took me to that Roman wine shop, in 1839, was standing at the door of my hotel.

I asked him if he remembered the circumstance. "Oh, well," said he. "It was bad enough;" and well do I recollect his having said to me at the time, "Let us go, our lives are in danger here."

I was informed by the cabman that, in the establishment last visited, he had seen from 80 to 150 lying drunk at a time; that they freqently drank to beastly drunkenness, and remained until the fumes passed off, for if found drunk in the streets the police take them in charge.

Mr. Gladstone's plan of inundating Great Britain with French liquor, called wine, at a low rate of duty, as a temperance measure, is calling forth extensive and thorough information with regard to the effect of the use of wine on the inhabitants of mis-named *temperate* drinking France. An intelligent Englishman, now engaged in making examinations with regard to this important question, has written a long letter to his correspondent in England, giving some of the results. I make a brief extract from his letter:

"That men—any men—can sit for hours drinking wine, of ever so moderate a percentate of alcohol, without perceptible effect, no one can believe. When, however, we find that the wine is not so moderate as is commonly supposed, and that the stronger liquors are pretty freely used, the effort to maintain a calm exterior becomes a more difficult matter. Anyhow, even within the early hours, the effect is apparently on not a few; while, as evening advances, the reign of Bacchus becomes more conspicuous.

"If not (in appearance) drunk, they are excited. If stupefied, they would be comparatively harmless. If maddened, they would be shunned. The simple Boor sleeps after his pot, and is wheeled to his bed. The whisky-loving Irishman flourishes his stick, and makes a clear course with all except another inspired one. The wine-elevated Frenchman is raised to the *dangerous point*—dangerous to himself and others. His passions are not drowned or enfeebled, but developed and intensified. He has had sufficient to *silence conscience*; but not to subdue reason. He is not bestialised but devilised. Such a man requires not to be placed within the sphere of temptation to commit sin; he carries with him a defiled moral atmosphere, and becomes himself the tempter. The principles of true honor are forgotten, and the claims of friendship and society are disregarded. He is prepared to execute any evil to gratify his own unholy feelings, provided he does not place himself in danger. Burning with base passions, he is not so lost by the drink as to hazard his own person or fail to win his object by incautious haste. He is thus truly drunk in the worst possible degree—in the most dangerous sense. As I shall be hereafter able to prove, in my subsequent communications, the sad moral state of France and other continental countries, is more owing to alcoholic liquors, mild as they may be, than to all other causes put together."

I add from another reliable source :

"With regard to intemperance, it has almost become an accepted fact, that it is more prevalent in England than in any other country. *But we have only wanted accurate and reliable statistics to dispel this fallacy.* Mr. Jules Simon shows us that in the manufacturing towns of France, that hitherto accepted model of a temperate country, the working classes who inhabit the squalid lodgings of the back slums are as violently addicted to liquor, as the most degraded of the same class in England. We can find no parallel in London to the picture drawn by M. Simon, of a Rouen wine-shop. The workmen are no sooner let loose from the factory than they rush in a mass to the cabaret, while a crowd of weeping wives may be seen waiting for them for weary hours outside the doors. The apprentices, at the early age of 12, may be seen drinking the coarse brandy, which they very aptly call the 'cruel.' As a body, these workmen and their families are feeble and sickly. They die at a terrible rate."

Cardinal Acton stated to me, in 1839, the Government of Rome had more to fear from the wine shops than from any other source. I am convinced that the Emperor of the French has more to fear from the wine shops than all other sources united. They furnish the material for riot and revolution, and the wine drank in them is the stimulant to every vice. Americans and others visiting the fashionable walks of Paris and other continental cities, seeing but few staggering men in the streets, suppose, and honestly suppose, that wine countries are, in a great measure, free from the vice of intemperance, but it is a great mistake. I was told there were hundreds of such places in Paris as I visited last night.

I do hope that hereafter my countrymen interested in the question, when in Paris, will devote an hour or two on some Monday evening to the examination I went through last night. By so doing, they would, like Mr. Greeley, of the *Tribune*, help to correct a great mistake. I could not but wish last evening that Mr. Gladstone had been with me. Had he seen what I saw, I think we should hear no more of his Wine Bill, unless immediate income has more weight with him than public morals, which I do not believe.

Solomon seems to have understood this matter better than some good men of the present day, when he says:—"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." "Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." And it would seem that Isaiah had witnessed scenes somewhat similar to those described, when he said:—"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink; they are swallowed up of wine; they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean."

If such facts and opinions as the above, from men who could have no motive to mislead, will not satisfy the intelligent mind of the fallacy of introducing cheap and weak wines into any country, as a *temperance measure*, I do not know what will.

BRUSSELS, *Belgium, May 4th*, 1860.

Being in this city for a day or two only, I have had no time to make any personal examination, but while visiting the Parliament House, I met with a very intelligent person, who gave me some information on the drinking usages of the people.

He stated that the principal beverage is strong beer, of which, at least 200 tuns are consumed daily in Brussels, each tun containing from 250 to 300 litres. Besides this beer, much French wine is drank, most of which is very bad, being falsified. He stated that a large proportion of the deaths here are occasioned by these drinks. Many will drink from ten to twelve large glasses of beer at a sitting.

LONDON, *May 9th.*

When in this city, in 1838, I attended a vast meeting of the friends of temperance from all parts of the kingdom, at Exeter Hall. After a severe and exciting contest, the pledge of the American Temperance Union was adopted by a vote almost unanimous. The Queen was *then* at the head of the movement opposed to the use of ardent spirits.

Since the adoption of the total abstinence pledge, I believe no organization favouring any other exists, either in this country or any other. The name is of little importance, the *thing* is everything; alcohol is the same poison, whether found in the wine decanter or the gin flask.

When alcohol in the wine cup was assailed, although the same poison as alcohol in the whisky jug, many, as you well know, walked no longer with us. I could give a tragical history of some who halted, while you and others went right on. Not a day has passed over my head since I was here, in 1838, that I have not felt deep regret that Her Majesty could not have seen it to be her duty at that time, to continue in the movement, and sanction total abstinence from the use of alcohol in fermented drinks, as she has from alcohol in ardent spirits. I pray she may yet see it to be her duty to take the step.

I have had a long conversation with one of Her Majesty's house hold; he spoke of the habits of the Queen and the heir to the throne, and as extremely moderate in the use of strong drink. I asked him what he thought the effect upon the world would be, should they adopt *entire* abstinence: his reply was, "mighty."

Last night was one of deep interest to me. At an early hour, I was placed, by the politeness of a member, in one of the best seats for listening to the debates on the floor of the House of Commons. The great discussion of the night was the Chancellor of the Exchequer's wine bill, to extend licenses to vend wine to all persons selling refreshments. The object of the bill was to bring eating and wine drinking into an indissoluble union. Had the bill passed in the shape it was introduced by Mr. Gladstone, I have no doubt there would have been 100,000 licensed drinking-shops added to those already in existence.

The opposition to the measure was very powerful, and I suppose,

for the first time, the principle of total abstinence was broached in Parliament. Very feeble, indeed, was the advocacy in its favour. One member remarked, "should the bill be passed, the drunkenness of Paris will be superadded to that of London."

How I did wish men could have been there like Bishop Alonzo Potter, of Pennsylvania, General Cary, Chancellor Walworth, and many others I could mention, to shed light upon this great subject; but, as it was, the Chancellor of the Exchequer trembled for his measure, and had he not promised to amend it in many important particulars, it never could have reached (I have been assured) its third reading. I send you the London *Times* containing the discussion.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledged that the whole question of license was involved in the discussion. I think, with him, that the question now before Parliament "does involve the whole license system"—a system honestly designed to check intemperance, but its *effect* ever has been to legalise and make respectable a traffic which, in fact, is a most intolerable nuisance, and the parent of every crime known to the courts. When the public mind shall be properly instructed with regards to the *results* of this system, pure minded law makers will as soon license men to go forth with poisoned daggers, to stab their fellow-creatures, as license them, with poisonous liquors to execute, and with unrelenting vengeance, on like unsuspecting victims, the same work of death.

Lord Chesterfield, in his address before the House of Lords, 125 years ago, touched the point exactly. He said: "luxury my lords, is to be taxed, but vice prohibted, let the difficulty of the law be what it will. Luxury, or that which is pernicious by excess, may very properly be taxed, that such excess, though not unlawful, may be made more difficult; but the use of those things which are simply hurtful in their own nature, (intoxicating drinks as a beverage are always so,) and in every degree, is to be prohibited."

I must in candour say that it is my belief that, from the peculiar government and stability of the laws in Great Britain, the rich blessings to flow from the total prohibition of the liquor traffic will be enjoyed there much sooner than with us in America.

I am rejoiced to find that the labour of instructing the public mind on this question is in the hands of men who will never relax their efforts until the work be accomplished.

The belief is becoming more and more diffused, that intoxicating liquors are never necessary or beneficial as a beverage in health. Their sale for such use is at war with the best interests of the people, under every government, and in every land.

Physicians are greatly in the way of the total abstinence movement. I have hardly conversed with a moderate drinker who has not opposed me by saying, "I drink by order of my physician." Even Mr. Gladstone, in defence of his own wine bill, read a note from Dr. Ferguson in favour of it, and remarked also that the same celebrated physician recommended wine to him in "no illibe

ral potations." (Now this same Dr. Ferguson signed a certificate, with hundreds of the most distinguished medical men in the country, giving it as their opinion that the use of even fermented drinks was never necessary, but injurious as a beverage in health, and millions of copies of this certificate were circulated in the United States.) Doctors ought, it should seem, to know better. Look back, my dear sir, to the end of many of the greatest statesmen in our own, as well as in this country. In how many instances have they been betrayed by the fallacy of the assumption that wine is a healthful beverage, into a practice which has proved fatal alike to their happiness and their virtue.

Surely it cannot be desirable to superadd to the miseries occasioned by beer drinking in England, the intense miseries inflicted by the drinking of the fabricated wines of France.

The more wealthy classes will not drink the kind of wine now about to be introduced; the object is to induce the middle classes to take to wine drinking as a temperance measure.

If the Emperor of the French really entertains malicious designs against England, to wipe out the recollection of Waterloo, and the thoughts which St. Helena naturally calls forth, I do not see how he could have his feelings more gratified than by deluging the English nation with his fabricated drinks.

I have no doubt, should Mr. Gladstone's plan be fully carried out, there would be more people destroyed by it yearly in this country than fell on the field of Waterloo.

It is a well ascertained fact, that there is not enough pure wine produced in France to supply the tables of the wealthy of that country, so that shipments of the "decoctions" called wine, as a general rule, will be of the most disgusting and poisonous character, unfit to be used by man or beast. Forty years ago, and before science had taught the secret of transmutation of drinks, and when alcohol was the only poison in them to be contended with, a man *might* live-on using them, "with all becoming moderation," for twenty years or so, without becoming a staggering drunkard; but now, since these scientific discoveries, it is a well ascertained fact in the United States, that on the *average* a man does not live over three years after the love of these fabricated intoxicating drinks has gained an ascendancy over him.

Of all the humbugs by which the good people of England and America are taken in, there is none quite equal to the wine humbug. I find the following in the London *Times*, in relation to the individual who negotiated the Commercial Treaty with France (I only apply to the wine part of it)—"*To use a good old word, which in the days of Queen Anne was classical English, the Emperor has completely 'bubbled' him.*"

The *Times* remarks that the object of the bill is to introduce a drink "*less poisonous*" than gin. Why in the name of common sense should Government desire to introduce a "poisonous" drink at all, and then commission men to sell it as a common beverage?

What are to be the remedies for the appalling evils, flowing from

the use of alcohol, as a beverage? for alcohol is the poison which causes the drunkenness of the world. Alcohol is, indeed, a good creature of God, but misapplied when used as a beverage in health, as really as laudanum or prussic acid would be.

The doctrine that the Bible sanctions the use of intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, has been the bane of the church, and has already caused the downfall of millions upon millions within its Pale, and is still leading other millions on to the same impending judgment.

The delusive doctrine, that the moderate use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, are safe, and excess is only to be avoided, has caused most of the drunkenness of the world; this delusion must be expelled, or intemperance will continue to the end of time. The use of alcohol, as a beverage in health, is at all times, and in all cases, a violation of the laws of life, which are the laws of God; and so long as such moderate use of intoxicating poison is sanctioned, or winked at by the church, drunkenness will (though unwittingly) be sanctioned.

Temperance organizations have, through their presses and lectures, furnished the world with facts and arguments to show that there can be no cure for the mighty evil in question, but TOTAL ABSTINENCE; by doing which they have cleared the way for the church to come to the rescue, and carry forward the glorious work to its final consummation. This done, the church having spoken, and the national conscience quickened by her voice, the right kind of legislation will follow, and an end be put to the sale of poisons, which now (under sanction of law) is producing an amount of disease, poverty, taxation and crime, under the weight of which the nation, especially our cities, groan.

Even now the people of the United States are fully prepared for stringent laws against the vending of fabricated liquors.

Let *Congress* enact a law to have trustworthy chemists appointed in all our ports of entry, to test imported liquors, and if found to be adulterated *condemned*. Let State legislators enact laws to prevent the sale of adulterated liquors, and to inflict severe punishment on those infringing such laws, and a step would be taken in the right direction—a step which, by the blessing of God, might prove the inception of measures destined to lead to the removal of the curse of intemperance, to the renovation of the world.

The use of tobacco in Europe is becoming as general as in America, and its effects are most manifest; the evil is second only to the use of alcohol, and if not arrested will, in time, reduce the people of Europe and America to the present condition of China and Turkey, through their use of opium.

The testimony of Lord Brougham is of great value with regard to the wine question. He has an estate on the Continent; he resides thereon a part of the year, and can speak from personal observation. I visited his Lordship in his castle in England; we exchanged views on the Temperance question generally; his mind is tending to prohibition. He asked me whether I thought strong beer inju

rious; I replied, "just so far as it contains alcohol and drugs; just so far I consider it injurious as a beverage in health." He gave three very significant nods to my reply; I concluded he understood the science of alcohol as well as Liebig. In an address before the society for the promotion of social science, delivered at Glasgow, speaking of the Maine Liquor Law, he says, and I think with great truth and justice:

"At our last Congress great attention was given to the important subject of temperance, and especially to the necessity of preparing public opinion for those *repressive* measures which experience daily proves more and more clearly to be required for lessening the consumption of spirituous liquors. The great source of pauperism and of crimes has hitherto only been attacked by *palliatives*, and although these have had a certain success, yet if there be any means not exposed to serious objections, by which the evil may be extirpated, the gain to society would be incalculable. Remember the memorable expression of that great philanthropist, our eminent colleague, the Recorder of Birmingham, 'Whatever step I take,' says Mr. Hill, 'and into whatever direction I may strike, the drink demon starts up before me, and blocks the way.'

"This is a subject which, happily with us, has never in any respect, been brought within the dominion of party, either civil or religious. Such, however, has been its lot in the New World; and it affords the most remarkable illustration of the evils which afflict the United States from the practice of their constitution, maintaining in every part of the country an incessant canvass, caused by the distribution of patronage and change of offices. Every subject of a nature to interest the community, and thus to create a difference of opinion, becomes the ground of controversy to contending parties, and so the Maine Liquor Law becomes a question upon which Governors were chosen and removed. The evils which the suspension of that law occasioned in the great increase of pauperism and crimes which had, under its beneficent operation, been reduced within an incredibly narrow compass, but which now rapidly revived, so seriously impressed men's minds with the mischief of having made it a party question that a resolution was passed at the State convention against ever so treating the subject hereafter. Nothing can redound more to the honor of the American people than their thus firmly persevering in their just and righteous determination. But it is impossible to avoid feeling how great is our happiness in this country to be free from the influence of such disturbing forces upon our most important measures. We discuss them freely on their own merits, and apply to the consideration of them those principles which, on mere matters of science—but science reduced to practice—should guide the inquiry and dictate the conclusions. We are removed above the storms raised by popular fury, nor are ever stunned by the noise which the psalmist compares to that of the raging sea; and our vision is not obscured by the clouds which faction drives together."

Yours very truly,

EDWARD C. DELAVAN.

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Lord Brougham, referring to the letter (p. 15) in the House of Lords, while Mr. Gladstone's wine bill was under discussion, sustained the views therein expressed with regard to temperance on the continent.

The UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE OF GREAT BRITAIN (called the GREAT Alliance by Lord Brougham) has its head-quarters and its powerful press in Manchester. . . . Its main labor is now directed to Parliamentary law, giving power to magistrates in all localities to withhold license in such localities, to sell intoxicating drink as a beverage, when *two-thirds* of the rate payers desire it. Very many districts have been canvassed, and it has been ascertained that, as a general rule, *over* two-thirds of the rate payers are in favor of the measure. That the Alliance will, in the end, obtain its object, no one can doubt, who understands its machinery and the moral power of the men working it.

The President of the organization is Sir Walter Trevelayn, with thirty-two distinguished gentlemen in Church, and State, as Vice-Presidents, among which are:

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Harrington, K.C.B., Elvaston Castle.
Sir William A'Beckett, Chief Justice of Victoria.
Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart., Brayton, near Carlisle.
The Very Rev. Dean Cotton, Bangor.
The Very Rev. F. Close, Dean of Carlisle.
Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., Liverpool.

W. Harvey, Esq., Manchester, Chairman Executive Committee.
Samuel Pope, Esq., do Honorary Secretary.
T. M. Barker, Esq., do Secretary.

The "Alliance Weekly News" is published at 41 John Dalton Street, Manchester, and is the organ of the Association. The religious and temperance press of the United States would do well to exchange with the "Alliance News."

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